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THE HARVARD COURSE

IN

PHOTOPLAY WRITING



UNIT V.

Model Scenario.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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PHYSICS DEPARTMENT



PHYSICS 101

LECTURE 10

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THE HARVARD COURSE IN PHOTOPLAY WRITING

A FEW WORDS
regarding
the accompanying

MODEL SCENARIO:

In the following pages is given a complete
Model Photoplay.
A Photoplay consists of the following parts:

- a) The Cast
- b) The Brief Synopsis
- c) The Detailed Synopsis
- d) The Scenario or Continuity.

The Brief Synopsis is intended to enable the Scenario Editor to decide, without undue loss of time, whether or not the play is suited to his requirements. The Brief Synopsis should give the outline of your story as briefly as possible, without any unnecessary words. Should the editor, after reading the Brief Synopsis, decide that the play may be what he wants, he will next turn to your Detailed Synopsis. This, as the word implies, should give your story in detail. In order to get the necessary detail, we recommend the following order of procedure:

- First, write an outline of your story (Brief Synopsis.)
- Next, write the complete scenario (continuity,) arranging each scene as you wish it to appear on the screen, and giving the Spoken Parts, etc.
- Next, write the Detailed Synopsis from your scenario. Thus, the Detailed Synopsis should be written last, and should be written from the scenario.

If you compare the Continuity (scenario) of the Model Play here given with the Detailed Synopsis, you will notice that the Detailed Synopsis closely follows the Continuity.

* * *

In submitting your work to us for criticism and handling, it is advisable to send both the Brief and Detailed Synopses, and the full Continuity; having the latter will enable us the better to check up on your work.

IMPORTANT: Full return postage must accompany all scripts. If you do not enclose full return postage we shall assume that you do not wish us to return the script if found unavailable, but wish us to send you only the Criticism, and that you have a copy of your story.

EBL. 24/III/36

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THE HARVARD COURSE IN PHOTOPLAY WRITING

THE AFFAIR OF THE EMPTY ROOM.

A Drama, laid in and around
New York

By

Laurence Thalmore.

(From the published story by the same author.)

* * *

Theme: "Jealousy is cruel as the grave; the coals
thereof are coals of a fire which hath a
most vehement flame."

* * * * *

CAST:

HAROLD VANDORP	A Banker
FLORENCE VANDORP	His Wife
HELEN VANBRUGH	Their Niece, on a visit to them.
MRS. VANBRUGH	Helen's Mother
KOTHARI SUTARA	A Wealthy Hindoo
FORBES WINSLOW	An Artist, Helen's Fiancee.
ROBERT HALE	A Private Detec- tive.

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THE HARVARD COMPANY, INC.

BRIEF SYNOPSIS.

After dinner at Vandorp's Long Island home, where he has been entertaining guests during the past week, the banker tells of his recent stay in India as the guest of the Maharajah of Khanda. One of the guests, a wealthy Hindoo named Kothari Sutara, who has just been refused by Helen Vanbrugh, Vandorp's niece, hangs on the banker's every word as the latter describes a necklace given him by the Maharajah as a parting gift, with a mysterious warning not to give it away until the message engraved on the fifty beads composing it be first translated.

During the narrative Mrs. Vandorp enters and tells her husband that a new jewel theft has just been committed -- The fourth within the week. She suspects Hale, whose real identity is unknown to anyone except Vandorp, who brought the detective down from New York, in the guise of a guest, to investigate the recent robberies at the house.

Vandorp accompanies his wife to her room, and whilst she is telling him of this latest robbery, they are astounded to discover that the articles previously stolen have been mysteriously restored.

At breakfast the next morning, Winslow fails to appear, and on his room being forcibly entered it is found to be empty, although the door is securely locked from the inside and the windows fastened. The Maharajah's necklace had been

kept in a safe in this room, and Vandorp now is amazed to find that it has been stolen. Despite a close search everywhere, no trace can be found of either Winslow or the necklace.

Vandorp remembers that he has a copy of the inscription engraved on the beads of the necklace, and Hale sends a messenger to the Indian Research Society for a translation, at the same time wiring to a friend in New York to ascertain whether Winslow has returned to the studio which he maintains there. Helen departs for New York and home, her visit cut short by her lover's disappearance.

When Hale receives the replies to his messages, a theory takes shape in his brain. If his suspicions are correct, Kothari Sutara abstracted the necklace in order to wreak vengeance on Helen and Winslow.

Hale sends for Kothari, but the Hindoo has disappeared. Hale outlines his theory to Vandorp, and the latter, horrified at the appalling danger that threatens, starts immediately with Hale for Helen's home in New York, hoping to arrive there in time to avert a tragedy. For, according to Hale's theory, the beads of the necklace are filled with an explosive which explodes at a low temperature, such as the warmth of a woman's bosom.

Meanwhile, Kothari arrives in New York and goes to Helen's house, shortly after Winslow, remembering nothing of

the happenings of the previous night, puts in an appearance there. Kothari tells Helen he is returning to India, and begs her to accept a necklace in token of his regard for her. She consents, and Kothari leaves.

Meanwhile, Hale and Vandorp are speeding through the country-side. They arrive just in time to save Helen from the fate planned for her by the Hindoo.....

DETAILED SYNOPSIS.

In the dining-room of Vandorp's country house, where he has been entertaining guests, Vandorp, Hale and Kothari are smoking over their coffee. Presently Kothari, with a word of apology to his host, leaves the room.

In the conservatory, Helen is seated in an easy-chair, absently toying with a flower. Kothari enters, draws up a chair, and sits down beside her. He has come to ask her to reconsider her decision; she, however, remains adamant. And as he asks her whether her refusal to marry him is final and she answers in the affirmative, an evil, vengeful look comes into his eyes. Then he rises, bows, and leaves the conservatory, just as Winslow, the favored suitor, enters.

Returning to the dining-room, outwardly calm as though nothing untoward had occurred, Kothari takes the chair which Vandorp offers him, takes a cigar from the humidor, and listens to the story Vandorp is telling.

During Vandorp's recent stay in India as the guest of the Maharajah of Khanda there had come to him, just before his departure from Khanda, a letter from the Maharajah, which read as follows:

"----- and in token of my friendship I am sending you this parting gift of priceless value. Harmless to you, in it lurks death for those whom you may wish to destroy. Let her whose death you might desire wear it,

but, as you value your life, keep it out of reach of those you love. Above all, do not give it away until the message it bears be translated."

On opening the box that accompanied the letter, Vandorp had found a necklace of fifty beads, or stones, each engraved with tiny characters.

As Vandorp finishes his story, there comes into the face of Kothari, who has been an eager listener, a sinister smile.

A touch upon Vandorp's shoulder causes him to turn. Behind him is Mrs. Vandorp. She whispers to him, and he follows her from the room. In her bedroom the wall safe has been rifled and an amethyst brooch stolen -- the fourth article of jewelry to disappear within the week. She voices suspicion of Hale, but Vandorp, plainly amused at the suggestion, tells her that she is mistaken, that he will answer for Hale. Besides, Hale arrived at the house only the preceding night, while the first of the robberies occurred a week ago.

Still unconvinced, she starts to answer, when she gives a cry of amazement. She has opened a jewel-box: "MY DIAMOND COLLAR!" she exclaims. "IT HAS COME BACK!"

They both stare at it. Vandorp suggests that she look to see if any other stolen articles have been mysteriously restored. In a drawer of the safe they find the tiara and pendant, previously stolen. She again voices suspicion of Hale, but her husband retorts, almost impatiently, "I'VE

TOLD YOU THAT YOU MUSTN'T SUSPECT HALE. WHOEVER YOU DOUBT, DON'T DOUBT HIM. I PLEDGE YOU MY WORD THAT HALE IS ALL RIGHT." He abruptly leaves the room, leaving her at the safe.

Passing down the stairs, Vandorp comes upon Winslow, who is just about to enter his room. His face is curiously drawn, his eyes are heavy, and he has the appearance of one under the influence of some drug. "KEEPING BABY HOURS, WINSLOW?" says Vandorp, smiling. Winslow half turns his head, mutters something, and enters his room, leaving Vandorp shaking his head.

As soon as Winslow is in his room, he puts his hand to his head, as though drowsy. He turns the key of the door and shoots the bolt. Then he staggers to the bed, which is to the left, under a large window, which is closed and locked, and throws himself full-length across the bed without undressing.

At dawn, some hours later. Winslow's room is in darkness save for the moonlight coming through the windows. Winslow is still stretched across the bed. A male figure is standing beside him, its features indiscernible in the gloom. The intruder makes a few jerky passes with his hands, and Winslow sits up. The intruder seems to be giving him certain orders.

Next morning Vandorp, his wife, Helen and Hale are seated at breakfast. Vandorp, glancing at the clock, notices

that it is now nine o'clock; with a smile he says to Helen, sitting at his left: "WINSLOW GENERALLY SETS US SUCH A GOOD EXAMPLE IN THE MATTER OF EARLY RISING THAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HIS LATENESS. I SUPPOSE HE SPENT HALF THE NIGHT THINKING OF A CERTAIN YOUNG LADY, AND MISSED HIS BEAUTY SLEEP." Then he despatches a servant, who presently returns and reports that he "has" tried to arouse Winslow and finally, receiving no response, knocked several times. The servant adds that the door of Winslow's room is locked from the inside. Vaguely troubled, Vandorp and the others go to Winslow's room; the host's repeated knocking eliciting no answer, Vandorp, with the aid of several servants, forces the door open.

The bed is in disorder, and the bedclothes are hanging from it. On the floor, a blanket and spread seem to cover what may be a human form huddled up on the carpet. All eyes are on that bundle on the floor as they crowd forward, and they are much relieved to discover that their fears were groundless: there is no body. Winslow, however, is nowhere to be seen. In vain they search the room. They try the windows, but they are securely locked, with the catches intact. Hale suggests that Winslow must have left by the only available exit -- the door. Just then Kothari comes up from behind the group, nearest the door, and says: " I CAME IN LAST, AND NO ONE PASSED ME. -- DID HE

SLEEP HERE LAST NIGHT?"

Vandorp goes to the door and shows them that the catch was set, and answers, almost irritably: "YES, YES; I MYSELF SAW HIM ENTER AND HEARD HIM LOCK THE DOOR AND FIX THE BOLT. BESIDES THERE IS NO OTHER GUEST-ROOM EMPTY IN THE HOUSE."

They make another fruitless search, and finally leave except Vandorp and his wife. Helen, in despair, follows the others. A servant approaches and tells Vandorp that all the exits from the house and the windows in the house have been found securely fastened. Turning to his wife, Vandorp says: "SO YOU SEE, FLORENCE, ALL THE EXITS FROM THE HOUSE, AND ALL THE WINDOWS, WERE FOUND FASTENED THIS MORNING. WINSLOW, THEN, MUST BE IN THE HOUSE. ACCORDING TO THE EVIDENCE, HE NEVER LEFT HIS ROOM; YET HE ISN'T IN IT, AND HE CAN'T BE FOUND."

Shaking her head and wearily passing her hand across her brow, she says there is one thing that troubles her. He smiles and says: "BUT THEN, YOU SEE, HALE IS A PRIVATE DETECTIVE. I BROUGHT HIM DOWN TO INVESTIGATE THOSE OTHER THEFTS. NO ONE SUSPECTS HIS REAL IDENTITY." She is surprised and relieved. Hale just then comes up the stairs and Vandorp eagerly asks him whether he has any news. He has not; he asks whose room it is that Winslow has been occupying -- whom it ordinarily belongs to. Vandorp tells him it is his daughter Betty's room, and is used as a guest-room during the latter's absence at boarding-school. Hale

pricks up his ears and asks whether anything of value is kept in the room, belonging to Betty. Vandorp shakes his head: Betty has all her jewelry with her, but some of his, Vandorp's, own things are kept in the safe, among them the Maharajah's necklace. Hale wants to see it, and Vandorp opens the safe. He takes from it a box of cedarwood, ornately carved, the lid springs back, and they start back in dismay. The box is empty. Hale, with a quiet smile, lights a cigar, and calmly says to Vandorp: "NOT ALTOGETHER SURPRISING. BUT MUCH DEPENDS ON WHETHER YOU KEPT A COPY OF THE INSCRIPTION."

On Vandorp's saying that he did, Hale asks him to get it, and when Vandorp objects that he cannot see how the inscription can account for this mystery of an empty room, Hale, flicking the ash from his cigar, gravely says: "IT MAY ACCOUNT FOR A VERY CUNNING DECEPTION. IT MAY PREVENT A TERRIBLE CRIME---IF WE ARE NOT TOO LATE. FIND THE COPY AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN."

They leave the room, Hale giving another long look at the fastened windows.

Later, in Vandorp's study, Hale is sitting at the table, with his back toward the door. Vandorp is bending over him as Hale writes out a telegram from the copy of the inscription at his elbow. The telegram reads:

"PROFESSOR NORTHRUP, INDIAN RESEARCH SOCIETY.
NEW YORK.
PLEASE WIRE TRANSLATION OF FOLLOWING---"

As Hale is writing, the door is softly opened, and Kothari appears on the threshold. He stops as he sees the two men. They are so engrossed that they do not notice him. He tries to get a glimpse at the telegram, but is unsuccessful, and withdraws. Hale folds the telegram and puts it in an envelope, lays it aside and picks up a second blank. He writes:

"Alan Bowden, 43, W. 87th St., New York.
Your friend Winslow disappeared from here last night. Wire immediately whether he has returned to his studio."

Vandorp summons a servant, hands him the telegrams, and falls to discussing the affair with Hale.

A short while later Helen returns to New York. Vandorp and his wife bid her farewell, Mrs. Vandorp kissing her tenderly and trying to console her. The automobile takes Helen to the depot. Through the window of the swiftly moving train she stares at the passing landscape, trying vainly to conquer her fears.

Down the front steps of Vandorp's house come Vandorp and Hale in earnest conversation. Kothari, coming around the house, joins them, and Vandorp invites him to accompany them on a stroll. Kothari is undecided; and on catching an odd look on Hale's face, declines and enters the house, while Hale and Vandorp saunter off together.

Meanwhile, at the New York terminal, Helen is met by her mother, who embraces her tenderly. She has been advised of Helen's coming, and her heart goes out to her

daughter. They enter the waiting limousine, and are driven off.

At Vandorp's, Kothari is sitting in a chair in his room, pensively smoking a cigarette. Presently, his mind is made, he rises, looks through all the drawers, pulls out various articles, such as shirts, etc., then pauses and replaces everything in orderly fashion. From his breast he takes a small package, hesitates, and, replacing the package in his pocket, steals from the room.

At the depot a train is coming in. Kothari appears, looks furtively around, and boards the train, which slowly steams from sight.

Down the road come Vandorp and Hale on their way back to the house. As they ascend the steps, a telegraph boy hands them a telegram. It reads:

"ROBERT HALE CARE VANDORP ENGLEMER L.I.
WINSLOW RETURNED TO HIS STUDIO EARLY THIS
MORNING. ALAN BOWDEN."

Vandorp is surprised, but Hale smiles, and they enter the house. As they pass into the study, another telegraph boy overtakes them, Hale signs, tears open the envelope, and reads:

"ROBERT HALE CARE VANDORP ENGLEMER L.I.
TRANSLATION OF YOUR INSCRIPTION AS FOLLOWS:
I SEVER -- FOR EVER --
THE FAITHLESS HEART.
LET ME REST
ON A FALSE BREAST."

Vandorp passes his hand across his eyes to assure himself he is awake. Hale smiles and says: "THE MYSTERY IS A MYSTERY NO LONGER. LET ME GIVE YOU MY THEORY OF WHAT OCCURED LAST NIGHT."

He drops into a chair, Vandorp doing likewise. Then Hale says: "HE HYRNOTIZED HIM. I AM SURE OF IT. AFTER DINNER HE BEGAN TO GET HIM IN HIS POWER." He then gives Vandorp this theory:

Kothari, maddened by jealousy, and forming a cunning scheme for revenge, had hypnotized Winslow and willed him to retire early. He had then entered the room through one of the windows, after slipping back the catch, and, exerting his hypnotic influence, has willed Winslow to return to New York in the dead of night in order to create a mystery and divert suspicion from himself. Kothari had then opened the safe and stolen the necklace, but on preparing to leave the room had found the way back via the window closed -- possible because he had noticed the gardner already at work on the lawn. He had then hit upon a clever ruse: he had taken up a position behind the door, and when Vandorp and the others forced the door and rushed forward, their attention held by the ominous bundle on the floor, which for aught they knew might be Winslow's dead body, he had slipped from his hiding-place behind the door, and behind the last of the group, thus becoming one of the spectators.

Vandorp is stupefied as Hale finishes his theory.

Inclined to doubt, he asks: "BUT WHAT COULD HE WANT WITH THE NECKLACE? AND, IF HE STOLE THE OTHER ARTICLES TOO, WHY DID HE RESTORE THEM?"

Hale's fingers are beating a tattoo on the table. Presently he looks up and says: "THEY WERE NOT WHAT HE WANTED. HE IS A HINDOO HIMSELF, AND FAMILIAR WITH THE WAYS OF THE ORIENT. HE KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING TO THE MYSTERIOUS WARNING IN THE MAHARAJAH'S LETTER, THOUGH YOU WERE INCLINED TO DISMISS IT AS A MERE FLOWER OF ORIENTAL SPEECH. HE HAS BEEN SPURNED BY MISS VANBRUGH, AND PROBABLY IS THIRSTING FOR REVENGE. HE WANTED TO READ THAT INSCRIPTION. I HAVE MY OWN THEORY CONCERNING THE DANGER THAT LURKS IN THE NECKLACE. I HAVE SENT FOR KOTHARI, AND HE SHALL TELL US IF I AM CORRECT."

A servant enters and tells them Kothari is nowhere to be found. Hale springs up excitedly and grabs the man's arm, but the servant merely repeats that they have searched everywhere. Hale tells Vandorp they must not lose a minute, and they hurry from the room. As they come down the front steps, a high-powered automobile draws up; they enter, and Hale tells the chauffeur to drive to the depot. There they inquire of the agent whether Kothari has been seen. From their description the agent tells them that their man took the 4:39 train. Hale's watch shows 5:03. They hurriedly re-enter their

car, telling the chauffeur to drive to New York as one possessed.

In her mother's drawing-room, Helen is in tears, while her mother vainly tries to console her. They have heard nothing of Winslow. Presently Mrs. Vanbrugh rises, and, going over to the telephone, voices her decision to advise their guests that the dinner is postponed. As she is speaking, the door opens and Winslow enters. Speechless, they stare at him; then Helen, with a glad cry, rushes to him. They overwhelm him with questions, but he looks at them in a bewildered way, and, dropping into a chair, tells them he doesn't know what happened to him, that he felt ill and dizzy as he went to bed, and that he suddenly found himself in his studio, weak and exhausted. The feeling had worn off a few minutes before, and he had come. He hadn't even thought to telephone, and had not, somehow, been able to answer it when it had rung. The two women look at him and at each other, unable to comprehend, and presently Mrs. Vanbrugh leaves the room to welcome the first of the arriving guests.

Meanwhile Hale and Vandorp are speeding toward New York, while Hale's watch remorselessly ticks off the precious seconds and the minutes. Hale blames himself for not making sure of Kothari. His only excuse is that the Hindoo was Vandorp's guest, and as such immune from

interference without overwhelming proof of guilt, Vandorp tries to reassure him, but Hale says: "YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE GHASTLY HIDEOUSNESS OF THE PLOT, VANDORP. I KNOW SOMETHING OF THE MAHARAJAH. AMONG OTHER THINGS, HE IS AN ENTHUSIASTIC EXPLOSIVES, AND IS CREDITED WITH HAVING INVENTED A NITROUS COMPOUND WHICH EXPLODES AT A COMPARATIVELY LOW TEMPERATURE. MY IDEA IS ---- "

Vandorp, his soul sick with horror, grips his arm, and Hale goes on to express his belief that each of the stones of the necklace is filled with this explosive, which has a low exploding-point --- so low that the heat of a room combined with the warmth of the bosom on which the necklace would rest would cause it to explode. For a second Vandorp sits as though paralyzed, then he leans forward and urges the chauffeur to still greater speed.

As Helen and Winslow are talking, Kothari is announced. Notwithstanding her annoyance, she orders that he be shown in. Kothari enters, smiling. Shaking hands with Winslow, and bowing to Helen, he declines Helen's invitation to be seated. Winslow's demeanor shows that he is utterly unconscious of the Hindoo's connection with last night's events. Kothari tells Helen he is returning to India, then takes from his pocket a necklace and asks her to accept it as a parting gift. With a glad cry she takes it. Winslow, too, is pleased, but Helen suddenly remembers that she cannot accept a gift from a man whose hand she has refused. She reluctantly hands the necklace

back to him, saying she cannot accept so magnificent a gift from him. Kothari pleads with her, tells her he will consider it a gracious favor if she will accept it, and that he hopes she may live long to wear it. She looks at Winslow; Kothari asks the latter to exert his influence, and Helen finally accepts. Kothari, taking her hand, wishes her happiness, shakes hands with Winslow and goes from the room.

In the dining-room all is in readiness, with some twenty guests present, cheerful fire burning in the huge grate at the far end. Helen and Winslow take their seats, and dinner is served. Suddenly an automobile dashes up; Vandorp and Hale rush up the steps and ring. (They have just been to Winslow's studio, only to be told by his house-keeper that he had gone out, it needed no particular gift of deduction to tell them that he was to be found at Helen's.) A servant opens the door to them, and for a moment hesitates startled by their excited appearance. They brush him aside and enter.

In the dining-room the guests are just putting down their glasses after a toast when Hale and Vandorp burst into the room. All is confusion. Springing forward, Vandorp snatches the necklace from Helen's throat, and, before Hale can stop him, flings it into the fire at the far end of the room. Realizing what he has done, Vandorp springs back. There is an explosion which wrecks the

grate, mantel-piece, and far end of the room. All stare at them, unable to comprehend. Helen all but faints, realizing her ghastly peril of but a moment ago. Turning to Winslow, Vandorp tells him to take her away.

Together Helen and Winslow enter the conservatory. They stand for a moment in the centre of the room, he calming her. Presently she regains her composure, and they walk over to the French window. He opens it, and they look out into the night; then with a whispered word he draws her to him, and together they step out into the moonlit garden.

THE END.

* * * * *

NOTE: In writing the Detailed Synopsis, spoken parts and sub-titles are used only where absolutely necessary. Otherwise, the action should be told in narrative form.

THE HARVARD COURSE IN PHOTOPLAY WRITING

THE AFFAIR OF THE EMPTY ROOM.

T. "JEALOUSY IS CRUEL AS THE GRAVE; THE COALS THEREOF ARE COALS OF FIRE WHICH HATH A MOST VEHEMENT FLAME."

T. AT VANDORP'S COUNTRY HOUSE ON LONG ISLAND.

1. DINING ROOM OF VANDORP'S HOUSE. (Long Shot.) Vandorp, Hale and Kothari, smoking over their coffee and after-dinner liqueurs. Presently Kothari, with a word of apology to his host, rises, and leaves the room.

T. INTRODUCING HELEN VANBRUGH.

2. CONSERVATORY. (Fade in.) Helen seated in an easy-chair, absently toying with a flower. Kothari enters, bowing. She smiles at him, and he approaches, draws up a chair, and sits down beside her. He is laboring under intense excitement, the reason for which becomes clear when, presently, he takes her hand and proposes to her. She is taken off her feet by his unexpected proposal, but recovers herself quickly, and, withdrawing her hand, shakes her head, and says:

SP: "I AM NO LONGER FREE. THERE CAN BE NOTHING BETWEEN US BUT FRIENDSHIP."

Kothari presses his suit, tells her his wealth can afford her every luxury, whereas Winslow is poor, but she adheres to her gentle but firm refusal. Gradually an evil, revengeful look comes into Kothari's eyes, and he says:

SP: "THIS IS FINAL?---YOU PREFER WINSLOW?"

She nods, yes, her eyes avoiding his, and with a curt bow he rises and goes from the room, just as Winslow enters. Seeing him, Kothari makes a pleasant remark to Winslow, and the latter suspecting nothing, responds pleasantly and drops into the chair beside Helen. He tells her that he has missed her, then says:

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SP: "TOMORROW NIGHT THE WORLD WILL KNOW OF OUR ENGAGEMENT."

She smiles happily, tells him she can scarcely wait for tomorrow to come. He takes her hand, and, raising it to his lips, kisses the ring on her third finger.

C.U. WINSLOW KISSING RING. (Fade out scene,)

3. DINING ROOM AT VANDORP'S. (Fade in.) Vandorp and Hale still smoking and talking. Kothari enters, his features calm and unconcerned. Vandorp pushes the cigar humidor toward him, points to a chair, and goes on with the story he had been telling when Kothari's entrance interrupted him.

SEMI CLOSE UP OF VANDORP TELLING HIS STORY.

T: AN AFTER-DINNER STORY.

4. ROOM IN AN INDIAN PALACE. (Fade in.) Vandorp, in a white duck suit and smoking a cheroot, is superintending the packing of his baggage by native servants. There is a knock at the door, and a native cavalry officer enters, bearing a letter and a package. He salaams to Vandorp, then hands him the letter and package, and, salaaming again, withdraws. Vandorp, surprised, opens the letter first.

INSERT PART OF LETTER READING:

"----- and in token of my friendship, I am sending you this parting gift of priceless value. Harmless to you, it will bring death to those whom you might wish to destroy. Let her whose death you might desire wear it, but, as you value your happiness, keep it out of reach of those whom you love. Above all, do not give it away until the message it bears be translated.

Maharajah of Khanda."

Vandorp puts down the letter, and with a puzzled look opens the package. It is a box of cedarwood, ornately carved, and on Vandorp's pressing the spring it slides open and discloses a necklace of fifty stones, each engraved with tiny Hindoo characters.

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INSERT NECKLACE SHOWING INSCRIPTION ENGRAVED ON STONES.

Vandorp replaces the necklace in its box, pleased with the gift, but smiles to indicate he sets no store by the mysterious warming conveyed in the letter. The servants have finished packing. A native officer enters, salaams, and tells Vandorp that the carriage is waiting to take him to the depot.

5. OUTSIDE THE PALACE.

Carriage waiting, surrounded by an escort of native cavalry. Vandorp gets in, the horses start, and the cavalcade is lost in a whirl of dust. (Iris down.)

6. DINING ROOM AT VANDORP'S. (Fade in.) Vandorp is finishing the story. Hale's face wears a blank expression, but Kothari is thoughtful, as though deeply impressed.

C.U. OF KOTHARI, A SINISTER SMILE CREEPING INTO HIS FACE. (Fade out scene.)

T: MRS. VANDORP DISCOVERS A NEW ROBBERY.

7. MRS. VANDORP'S BEDROOM. Wall safe open, with Mrs. Vandorp standing before it in an attitude of tense excitement. She has just discovered that the safe has been rifled and an article of jewelry stolen. She shows great distress, and finally rushes from the room.

8. DINING ROOM. Hale, Vandorp and Kothari are discussing the banker's story, Kothari being at particular pains to express his disbelief in the alleged danger connected with the necklace. While they are thus talking, the door opens and Mrs. Vandorp enters. Walking quickly over to her husband, she bends over him and whispers in his ear. He looks up sharply, makes a gesture of annoyance, and with a word of apology to his guests follows her from the room.

9. MRS. VANDORP'S BEDROOM. They enter, cross over to the safe, and Vandorp stands there in amazement while his wife tells him of the new robbery. He asks her what it is that has been stolen this time, and she says:

SP: "THAT MAKES THE FOURTH ARTICLE OF JEWELRY WHICH HAS DISAPPEARED WITHIN THE PAST WEEK. FIRST THE PENDANT,

THE HARVARD COURSE IN PHOTOPLAY WRITING

THEN THE TIARA, THEN MY DIAMOND COLLAR, AND NOW MY AMETHYST BROOCH."

He shakes his head, puzzled. She comes closer, and says:

SP: "HAROLD, I FEEL CERTAIN THEY HAVE BEEN STOLEN BY ONE OF OUR GUESTS. LISTEN --- I SUSPECT MR. HALE. AFTER ALL, WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HIM."

Vandorp laughs, as though amused at the suggestion, rubs his hands together, and answers:

SP: "MY DEAR, SET YOUR MIND AT REST. I'LL ANSWER FOR HALE. BESIDES, HE ONLY ARRIVED LAST NIGHT. WHILE THE FIRST OF THESE ROBBERIES OCCURED A WEEK AGO."

She is still unconvinced, and is about to answer, when she gives a cry of astonishment. She has opened a jewel casket -----

SP: "MY DIAMOND COLLAR! IT HAS COME BACK AGAIN!"

INSERT DIAMOND COLLAR IN CASKET. (Iris out.)

They both stare at it in wonderment. Vandorp suggests that she look if any of the other stolen articles have likewise been mysteriously restored. She opens a drawer of the safe, and they both start back, scarcely able to credit the evidence of their own eyes.

INSERT DIAMOND TIARA AND PENDANT. (Iris out.)

Mrs. Vandorp again voices her suspicions of Hale, but her husband brushes them aside, saying:

SP: "I'VE TOLD YOU YOU MUSTN'T SUSPECT HALE. WHO-EVER YOU DOUBT. DON'T DOUBT HIM. I PLEDGE YOU MY WORD THAT HE IS ALL RIGHT."

Still she remains unconvinced, and after some more arguments he abruptly turns on his heels and leaves the room, while she proceeds to arrange the contents of the safe.

10. STAIRWAY OF VANDORP'S HOUSE. Passing down the stairs, Vandorp comes upon Winslow, who is just about to enter his room. Winslow's face is curiously drawn, his eyes are heavy, and he has the appearance of one under the influence of some

drug. Vandorp, his thoughts still occupied with the developments in his wife's room, fails to notice anything amiss, except that Winslow looks sleepy, and he says banteringly:

SP: "KEEPING BABY-HOURS, WINSLOW?"

Winslow half turns his head, mutters an incoherent answer, turns the knob, and enters his room, leaving Vandorp standing outside. Shaking his head, Vandorp passes down the stairs, looking back several times in the direction of Winslow's room.

11. INTERIOR OF WINSLOW'S ROOM. Winslow just inside the door. The bed is on the left, under a large window, of which there are four in the room. He puts his hand to his head, although drowsy. He crosses over to the door, turns the key, and fixes the catch. He staggers to the bed and flings himself full-length across it. (Fade out.)

T: IN THE GREY DAWN.

INTERIOR OF WINSLOW'S ROOM. (Fade in.) The room is in darkness save for the rays of the waning moon coming through the windows. Winslow, fully dressed, is stretched across the bed. A male figure is standing beside the bed, his features indiscernable in the gloom. The intruder makes a few passes with his hands, and Winslow, with jerky movements, sits up. The intruder seems to be giving him certain orders or instructions. (Fade out.)

T: AN INTERRUPTED BREAKFAST.

13. BREAKFAST ROOM IN VANDORP'S HOUSE. All characters except Winslow and Kothari seated at table, also several other guests. Vandorp glances at the clock on the mantel.

INSERT CLOCK WITH HANDS AT NINE.

Vandorp turns to Helen, sitting on his left, and with a smile says:

SP: "WINSLOW GENERALLY SETS US ALL SUCH A GOOD EXAMPLE IN THE MATTER OF EARLY RISING THAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HIS LATENESS. I SUPPOSE HE SPENT THE NIGHT THINKING OF A CERTAIN YOUNG LADY, AND MISSED HIS BEAUTY-SLEEP."

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She smiles, blushes, and suggests he send someone to tell Winslow he is keeping everybody waiting. Vandorp beckons a servant, and sends him to Winslow's room.

14. OUTSIDE WINSLOW'S ROOM. The servant knocks several times, but receives no answer. Tries the door, and finds it locked. Knocks again, listens, calls; then, in alarm, turns and hurries away.
15. BREAKFAST ROOM. The servant enters, goes over to Vandorp, and tells him he can get no answer. Vandorp, vaguely troubled, rises and leaves the room, followed by the others.
16. OUTSIDE WINSLOW'S ROOM. Vandorp knocks several times, calls to Winslow, but there is no answer. The others crowd behind him, Helen in an agony of suspense. Vandorp applies his shoulder with great force, but the door resists the shock. Several servants come running up. At that moment Vandorp sends the door crashing open.
17. INTERIOR OF BEDROOM. The bed is in disorder and the clothes are hanging from it. On the floor a blanket and spread seem to cover the form of a man huddled up on the carpet, and all eyes are fixed on that bundle as the crowd rushes forward. Helen snatches up the blanket, and utters a cry of relief: the bundle covers no body. They all look around in bewilderment: Winslow is not in the room. They look under the bed, but he is not there. They try the windows, but they are securely fastened, with the catches intact. Hale suggests that Winslow must have left by the only other available exit -- the door. Just then Kothari comes up from behind the group, nearest the door, and says:

SP: "I CAME IN LAST, AND NO ONE PASSED ME.--- DID HE SLEEP HERE LAST NIGHT?"

Vandorp goes over to the door, shows them that the catch was set, and answers Kothari almost irritably:

SP: "YES, YES. I MYSELF SAW HIM ENTER AND HEARD HIM LOCK THE DOOR AND FIX THE CATCH. BESIDES, THERE IS NOT OTHER GUEST ROOM EMPTY IN THE HOUSE."

They make another thorough search of the room again without result, and finally they leave.

THE HARVARD COURSE IN PHOTOPLAY WRITING

18. OUTSIDE. They all move off except Vandorp and his wife. Helen is in despair as she follows the others. A servant approaches, tells Vandorp that all the exits from the house and windows in the house were found securely fastened, and moves off. Turning to his wife, Vandorp says:

SP: "SO YOU SEE, FLORENCE, ALL THE EXITS FROM THE HOUSE, AND ALL THE WINDOWS, WERE FOUND FASTENED THIS MORNING. WINSLOW, THEN, MUST BE IN THE HOUSE. ACCORDING TO THE EVIDENCE, HE NEVER LEFT HIS ROOM; YET HE ISN'T IN IT, AND HE CAN'T BE FOUND."

She shakes her head and wearily passes her hand across her forehead, tells him there is one thing that troubles her. Smiling, he says:

SP: "BUT THEN, YOU SEE, HALE IS A PRIVATE DETECTIVE, I BROUGHT HIM DOWN TO INVESTIGATE THOSE OTHER THEFTS. NO ONE SUSPECTS HIS REAL IDENTITY."

She is surprised, relieved. Just then Hale comes up the stairs. Vandorp asks eagerly if he has any news. Hale shakes his head, then asks whose room it is that Kothari has been occupying -- whom it ordinarily belongs to. Vandorp answers:

SP: "IT IS MY DAUGHTER BETTY'S ROOM. SHE IS AWAY AT BOARDING SCHOOL, AND WE USE IT FOR GUESTS."

Hale pricks up his ears, looks toward the room, then asks whether anything of value is kept there, belonging to Betty. Vandorp shakes his head, no, and answers:

SP: "BETTY HAS ALL HER PERSONAL JEWELRY WITH HER. SOME THINGS OF MINE ARE KEPT IN THE SAFE. LET ME SEE -- AH, THERE'S THE MAHARAJAH'S NECKLACE I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT LAST NIGHT."

Hale says he would like to see it. Vandorp nods, and pushes open the door.

19. INTERIOR OF BEDROOM. They walk over to the safe, and Vandorp opens it. He takes from it a cedarwood box, the lid springs back, and they start back in dismay. The box is empty.

THE HARVARD COURSE IN PHOTOPLAY WRITING

INSERT C.U. OF EMPTY BOX.

Hale, with a quiet smile, lights a cigar, and as Vandorp looks at him in bewilderment, says:

SP: "NOT ALTOGETHER SURPRISING. BUT MUCH DEPENDS ON WHETHER YOU HAVE DEFT A COPY OF THE INSCRIPTION."

Vandorp tells him he did, as he had intended to get it translated. Hale asks him to get it, but Vandorp says:

SP: "BUT I FAIL TO SEE HOW THE INSCRIPTION COULD ACCOUNT, OR HELP TO ACCOUNT, FOR THIS MYSTERY OF AN EMPTY ROOM."

Hale flicks the ash from his cigar, and answers gravely:

SP: "IT MAY ACCOUNT FOR A VERY CUNNING DECEPTION. IT MAY PREVENT A VERY TERRIBLE CRIME --- IF WE ARE NOT TOO LATE. FIND THE COPY AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN."

Vandorp and his wife leave the room. Hale follows after another look at the fastened windows. (Fade out:)

20. VANDORP'S STUDY. (Fade in.) Hale is sitting at the table, with his back to the door. Vandorp is bending over his shoulder as Hale writes. Vandorp has just brought him the copy of the inscription on the necklace, and Hale is writing out a telegram, copying from the inscription at his elbow.

INSERT HALE'S HAND WRITING TELEGRAM.

Professor Northrup,
Indian Research Society,
New York.

Please wire translation
of following -----

(Fade out telegram.

While Hale is writing, the door opens softly and Kothari appears on the threshold but stops short as he sees the two men. They are so engrossed that they do not notice him. He tries to get a glimpse at the telegram, but is unsuccessful, and withdraws.

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Hale folds the telegram, puts it in an envelope,
lays it aside, picks up a second blank, and writes:

INSERT HALE'S HAND WRITING TELEGRAM.

Alan Bowden,
43, West 87th St.,
New York.

Your friend Winslow disappeared from
here last night. Wire immediately
whether he has returned to his studio.

(Fade out telegram.)

Vandorp presses a button on the table, a servant
enters, Hale hands him the telegram, and the servant
withdraws. The two men fall to discussing the
affair. (Fade out.)

T: HELEN RETURNS TO NEW YORK.

21. EXTERIOR OF VANDORP'S HOUSE. Automobile waiting,
with Helen's baggage piled on it. She comes from
the house and down the steps with Vandorp and
Mrs. Vandorp. She enters the car. She is in a
state of high nervous tension. Mrs. Vandorp kisses
her tenderly, with words of encouragement, Vandorp
shakes hands, and the car moves off. (Fade out.)
22. HELEN IN PULLMAN CAR ON HER WAY TO NEW YORK. She
is staring through the window at the swiftly passing
landscape, trying in vain to conquer the fears which
assail her. (Fade out.)
23. EXTERIOR OF VANDORP'S HOUSE. Vandorp comes down the
steps with Hale, engaged in earnest conversation.
Kothari, coming around the house, joins them, and
Vandorp invites him to accompany them on a stroll.
Kothari is undecided, then catches an odd look on
Hale's face, and tells Vandorp, no, he feels tired.
He enters the house, and Vandorp and Hale stroll
off together.
24. RAILROAD TERMINAL IN NEW YORK. Helen comes through
the gate and is met by her mother, who embraces her
tenderly. She has been advised of Helen's coming,
and her heart goes out to her daughter.

THE HARVARD COURSE IN PHOTOPLAY WRITING

T: INTRODUCING MRS. VANBRUGH.

C.U. OF MRS. VANBRUGH EMBRACING HELEN. Together they enter the waiting limousine and are driven off.

T: WHILE AT VANDORP'S -----

25. KOTHARI'S ROOM AT VANDORP'S. (Fade in.) Kothari is sitting in a chair pensively smoking a cigarette, as if occupied with some problem. Presently, his mind made up, he jumps up, looks through all the drawers, pulls out various articles, such as shirts, etc., then pauses, and replaces everything in orderly fashion. From his breast pocket he produces a small package, hesitates, then replaces the package in his pocket. Then he cautiously steals out of the room to avoid being seen.

26. RAILWAY DEPOT. Train is coming in. Kothari appears and looks furtively around, then boards the train, which slowly disappears from sight. (Fade out.)

27. EXTERIOR OF VANDORP'S HOUSE. Down the road come Hale and Vandorp. As they are ascending the steps a telegraph boy appears and hands them a telegram. Hale signs, and opens it immediately.

INSERT HALE'S HAND HOLDING TELEGRAM.

Robert Hale,
Care Vandorp,
Englemere, L.I.
Winslow returned to his studio early
this morning. Alan Bowden.

Vandorp is surprised, but Hale smiles, and they enter the house.

28. VANDORP'S STUDY. Vandorp and Hale are just entering when they are overtaken by another telegraph boy. Hale takes the message, signs for it, and tears open the envelope.

INSERT HALE'S HAND HOLDING TELEGRAM.

Robert Hale,
Care Vandorp,
Englemere, L.I.
Translation of your inscription as follows:

THE HARVARD COURSE IN PHOTOPLAY WRITING

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INSERT HALE'S HAND HOLDING TELEGRAM.

Robert Hale,
Care Vandorp,
Englemere, L.I.
Translation of your inscription as follows:

THE HARVARD COURSE IN PHOTOPLAY WRITING

"I sever -- for ever --
The faithless heart,
Let me rest
On a false breast."

(Fade out telegram.)

Vandorp looks at Hale in blank amazement, passing his hand over his eyes as though to assure himself that he is not dreaming. Hale smiles, and says:

SP: "THE MYSTERY IS A MYSTERY NO LONGER. LET ME GIVE YOU MY THEORY OF WHAT OCCURRED LAST NIGHT."

He drops into a chair, Vandorp doing likewise. Then Hale says:

SP: "KOTHARI HYPNOTIZED HIM. I AM SURE OF IT. AFTER DINNER HE BEGAN TO GET HIM INTO HIS POWER."

29. WINSLOW'S ROOM. (Fade in.) Repeat Scene 12, showing the intruder to have been Kothari. He is saying:

SP: "YOU WILL RETURN AT ONCE TO NEW YORK AND STAY IN YOUR STUDIO UNTIL EVENING. THEN YOU WILL GO TO DINNER AT MRE. VANBRUGH'S, AT WHICH YOUR ENGAGEMENT TO HELEN IS TO BE FORMALLY ANNOUNCED. WHEN YOU COME OUT OF YOUR TRANCE YOU WILL REMEMBER NOTHING OF WHAT OCCURRED IN THIS HOUSE, NOR WHY YOU LEFT IT."

Winslow, in a hypnotic trance, leaves through the window, and Kothari fastens it behind him. (Fade out.)

30. VANDORP'S STUDY. (Fade in.) Vandorp's eyes are fastened on Hale as the latter develops his theory. (Fade out.)

31. WINSLOW'S ROOM. (Fade in.) Having fastened the window, Kothari ransacks the room but fails to find the object for which he is searching. He then walks over to the safe, takes a notebook from his pocket and consults it, then tries the combination of the safe. After a few turns it opens, and he goes through its contents, presently withdrawing from it a cedarwood box, ornately carved. With a cry of exultation he presses the spring, the lid flies open, and discloses a necklace.

C. .



C.U. OF KOTHARI TAKING NECKLACE FROM ITS BOX.

He hastily slips it in his pocket, closes the box, replaces it in the safe, and shuts the latter. He walks over to the door to leave the room, tries the knob, but finds the door locked. He searches for the key, but cannot find it. He crosses over to the window, intending to leave by this exit, but, looking out, sees the gardner already at work on the lawn below.

32. GARDNER AT WORK. (Scene from Kothari's angle.)

33. WINSLOW'S ROOM. Kothari, seeing the gardner, starts back from the window to avoid being seen. For an instant he things himself trapped, but presently hits upon a ruse. A smile flits over his face, and he takes the bedclothes and puts them in a bundle on the floor, then goes over to the door and takes up a position immediately behind it. (Fade out.)

34. VANDORP'S STUDY. (Fade in.) Vandorp has risen in his excitement, Hale's cigar has gone out. He flicks off the ash and relights it, then, leaning back, continues. (Fade out.)

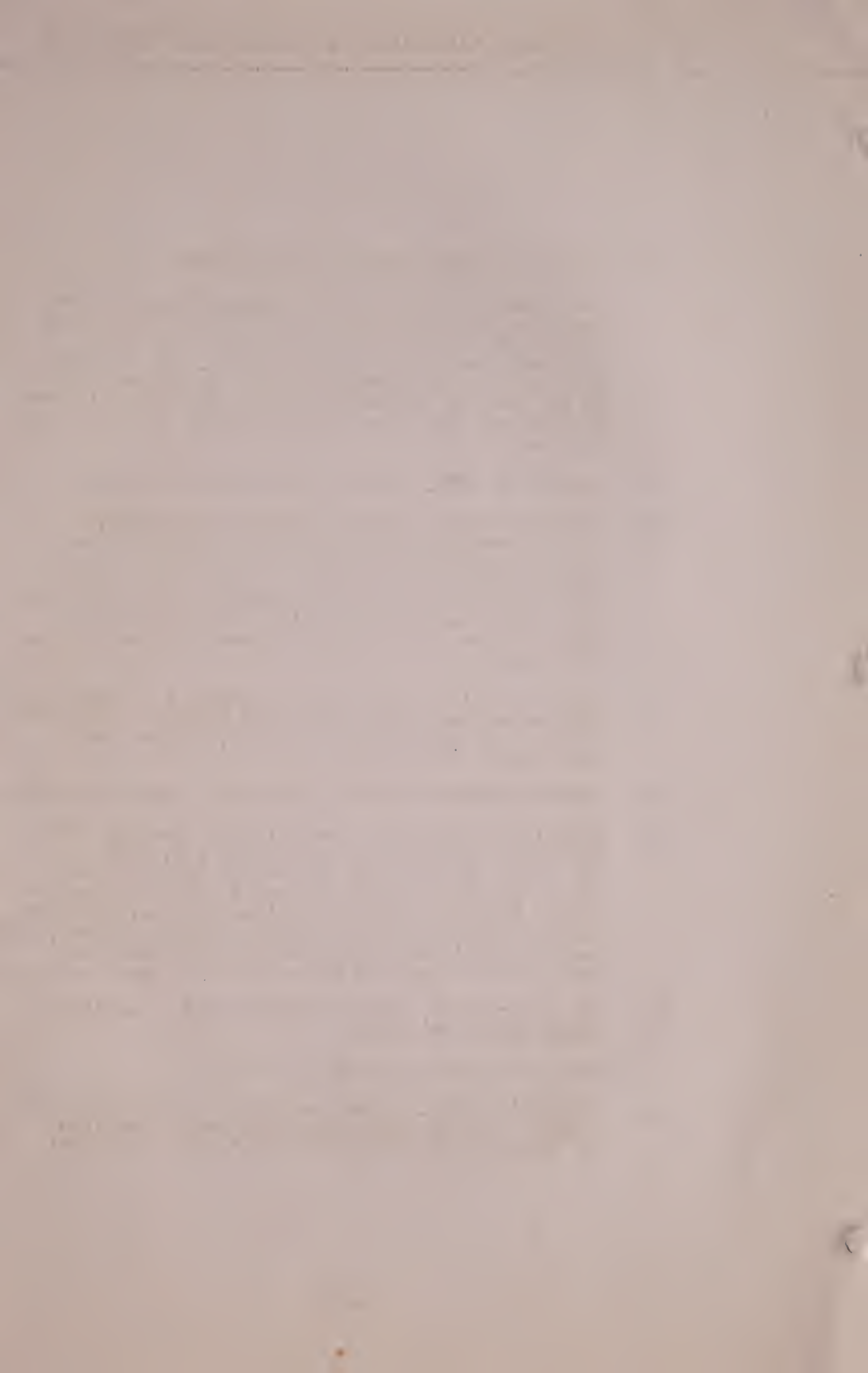
35. OUTSIDE WINSLOW'S ROOM. (Fade in.) Repeat Scene 16.

36. INTERIOR OF BEDROOM. (Show Kothari standing behind the door. Show Vandorp and the others, their attention attracted by the ominous bundle on the floor, rushing forward, without looking to right or left. Kothari steals from behind the door and thus becomes the last in the group. He comes forward, and, hearing Hale's suggestion that Winslow must have left by the only available exit -- the door, -- he says:

SP. "I CAME IN LAST, AND NO ONE PASSED ME. -- DID HE SLEEP HERE LAST NIGHT?"

Show end of Scene 17 and fade out.

37. VANDORP'S STUDY. (Fade in.) Hale is finishing his story. Vandorp seems stupefied, but is inclined to doubt the accuracy of Hale's theory. He asks:



THE HARVARD COURSE IN PHOTOPLAY WRITING

SP: "BUT WHAT COULD HE WANT WITH THE NECKLACE? AND IF, AS YOU SAY, HE STOLE THE OTHER ARTICLES ALSO, WHY DID HE RESTORE THEM?"

Hale's fingers are beating a tattoo on the table. After a pause he looks up and says:

SP: "THEY WERE NOT WHAT HE WANTED. HE IS A HINDOO HIMSELF, AND FAMILIAR WITH THE WAYS OF THE ORIENT. HE KNEW THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING TO THE MYSTERIOUS WARNING IN THE MAHARAJAH'S LETTER, THOUGH YOU WERE INCLINED TO DISMISS IT AS A MERE FLOWER OF ORIENTAL SPEECH. HE HAS BEEN SPURNED BY MISS VANBRUGH, AND PROBABLY IS THIRSTING FOR REVENGE. HE WANTED TO READ THAT INSCRIPTION. I HAVE MY OWN THEORY CONCERNING THE DANGER THAT LURKS IN THE NECKLACE. I HAVE SENT FOR KOTHARI AND HE SHALL TELL US WHETHER I AM CORRECT OR NOT."

As Hale is speaking, a servant enters, and tells him Kothari is nowhere to be found, Hale springs up excitedly and grips the man's arm. "He's gone? speak up man!" The servant nods, yes, tells him they have searched everywhere without result. Vandorp, frantic, asks what is to be done, and Hale tells him they must follow Kothari without a moment's delay. Together they leave the room.

38. OUTSIDE VANDORP'S HOUSE. Vandorp and Hale are coming down the steps, and a high-powered car draws up, which they enter. Hale tells the chauffeur to drive to the depot, and the car leaps forward and starts down the road.

39. DEPOT. The car draws up, and the two men jump out and ask the station agent, who is standing on the platform, whether Kothari has been seen. They describe the Hindoo, and the agent, recalling him, tells them he has taken the New York train. He adds:

SP: "HE TOOK THE FOUR THIRTY-NINE."

Hale pulls out his watch and looks at it.

INSERT WATCH WITH HANDS AT 5:03.

They hurriedly re-enter the car, which, after the chauffeur has been given emphatic instructions to drive like one possessed, leaps forward and is off down the road.

40. KOTHARI IN PULLMAN CAR OF SPEEDING TRAIN. (Fade out.)

T: AT MRS. VANBRUGH'S THINGS ARE HAPPENING.

41. DRAWING ROOM OF MRS. VANBRUGH'S HOUSE. Helen is in tears, while her mother vainly tries to console her. They have heard nothing of Winslow. Presently Mrs. Vanbrugh rises, and, going over to the telephone,

SP: "THERE SEEMS NOTHING LEFT BUT TO TELEPHONE TO OUR GUESTS THAT THE DINNER IS INDEFINITELY POSTPONED AND ---"

At that moment the door opens and Winslow enters. For a moment they both stare at him speechless, then Helen, with a glad cry, rushes to him. They both overwhelm him with questions, but he looks at them in a bewildered way, and, sinking into a chair, says:

SP: "I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO ME. I FELT ILL AND DIZZY, AND WENT TO BED. THEN I FOUND MYSELF IN MY STUDIO. STRANGELY WEAK AND EXHAUSTED. AND A FEW MINUTES AGO IT WORE OFF, AND I CAME. I DIDN'T EVEN THINK TO TELEPHONE, NOR, SOMEHOW, DID I SEEM ABLE TO ANSWER IT WHEN IT RANG DURING THE DAY!"

They look at each other, then at him, unable to comprehend, and presently Mrs. Vanbrugh leaves the room to welcome the first of the arriving guests, leaving Helen and Winslow talking about the strange occurrence. (Fade out.)

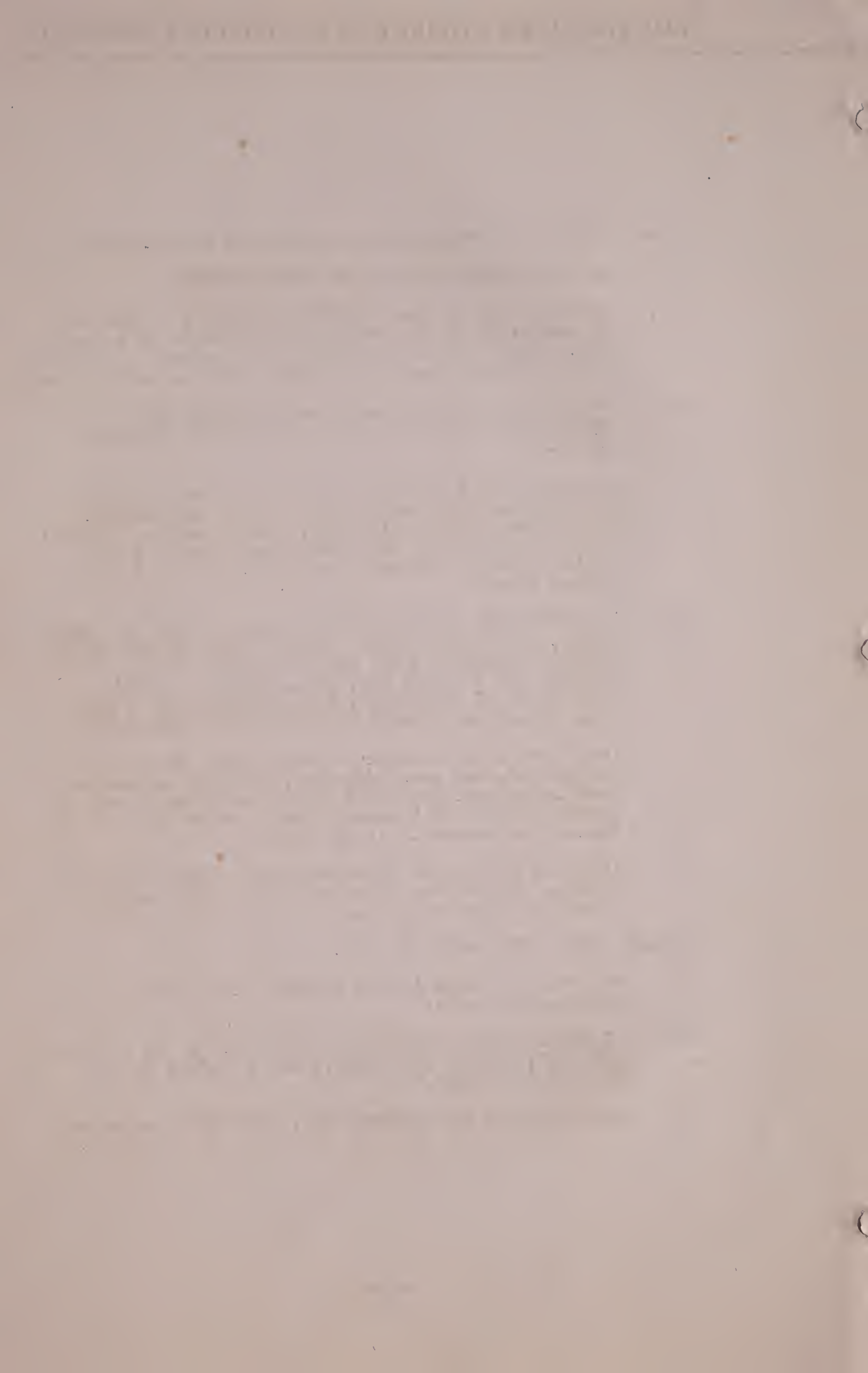
42. HALE AND VANDORP IN SPEEDING AUTO. They are both looking worried and anxious. Hale pulls out his watch and glances at it.

INSERT WATCH WITH HANDS AT 5:42.

He puts the watch in his pocket, bites his lips in vexation, and says:

SP: "I SHOULD HAVE MADE SURE OF KOTHARI. I WAS A FOOL. BUT THEN, HE WAS YOUR GUEST, AND I WANTED TO BE SURE OF MY GROUND."

Vandorp tries to reassure him, but Hale continues:



SP: "YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE GHASTLY HIDEOUSNESS OF THIS PLOT. VANDORP. I KNOW SOMETHING OF THE MAHARAJAH. AMONGST OTHER THINGS, HE IS AN ENTHUSIAST ON EXPLOSIVES, AND HE IS CREDITED WITH HAVING INVENTED A NITROUS COMPOUND WHICH EXPLODES AT A COMPARATIVELY LOW TEMPERATURE. MY IDEA IS ----"

Vandorp grips his arm, his very soul sick with horror. he cries:

SP: "MY GOD! YOU DON'T MEAN---"

Hale nods, and says:

SP: "THAT THE STONES OF THE NECKLACE ARE EACH FILLED WITH THIS INFERNAL EXPLOSIVE. THEY ARE PROBABLY THIN SHELLS. REMEMBER THE LOW EXPLODING POINT. WELL, THE HEAT OF THE ROOM AND THE WARMTH OF A WOMAN'S BOSOM ---CAN YOU GUESS THE RESULT?"

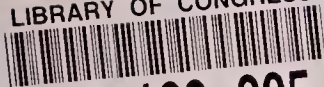
For a second Vandorp sits as though paralyzed; then, leaning forward, he urges the chauffeur to still greater speed. (Fade out.)

43. DRAWING ROOM AT MRS. VANBRUGH'S. Helen and Winslow still discussing the mystery of last night, but happy in each other's presence. There is a knock and a servant enters, bearing a card on a salver. Helen takes it, looks at it, gives a little cry half surprise, half annoyance, and after a moments hesitation tells the servant to show in the visitor. Presently Kothari enters, smiling. He shakes hands with Helen, makes a pleasant remark to Winslow, who, utterly unconscious of Kothari's connection with his hurried early-morning flight from Vandorp's house, smilingly responds. Helen motions Kothari to a seat, but he declines and says:

SP: "I MUST HURRY FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO TRAIN. I AM LEAVING FOR INDIA ON THE NEXT BOAT, FOR REASONS I NEED NOT DISCUSS. I HAVE BROUGHT YOU A LITTLE PARTING GIFT, WHICH, WITH WINSLOW'S PERMISSION, I WILL ASK YOU TO ACCEPT."

He produces the necklace and hands it to her; she takes it with a glad cry. Winslow, too, is pleased, but Helen hesitates and grows grave; for she remembers that the Hindoo was at one time a suitor to her hand. She reluctantly hands the necklace back to him, tells him she cannot accept so magnificent a

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